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Lee, Michelle G

From: Hutchinson, Yvonne G
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 1:02 PM
To: Kovar, Jeffrey D
Subject: RE: Hard Q's and A's for the July hearing before the Human Rights Committee

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From: Kovar, Jeffrey D
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 8:53 AM
To: Barton, Paula J; Hutchinson, Yvonne G
Subject: FW: Hard Q's and A's for the July hearing before the Human Rights Committee

Please look over these and let me know if you can think of additional questions the Committee might ask that we should prepare answers for. Thanks.

From: Schou, Nina E
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:28 AM
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Cc: Hill, Steven R; Harris, Robert K; 'amsurena'; Bentes, Julianna W; nschou
Subject: Hard Q's and A's for the July hearing before the Human Rights Committee

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All -

Attached is a list of Hard Q's and A's that we have prepared for use in the ICCPR hearing. As you know, the format of the proceedings are such that we will need to respond to questions posed by the Committee in the same meeting in which the questions are raised. For this reason, we need to prepare as much canned material as possible. We have come up with the following list based in large part on the many NGO submissions the Committee has already received. Julianna already circulated the link to these reports previously but I'm enclosing it again for your reference. [http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/87ngo_info.htm]

In a couple of instances where the issue areas are so vast we have specifically requested particular agencies to provide additional Q's and A's that they think may be necessary. Even if we have not specifically requested it, as we have said before, we would also welcome any additional Q's and A's that agencies may consider relevant, based in part, for example on Congressional, press or NGO inquiries.

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Requests/Explanations to particular agencies -

NSC - Please forward this to an appropriate contact at HUD and advise them to get in touch directly with me.
DOJ - Many of the questions are directed to you. In a handful of cases we were able to supply answers to DOJ questions based on the CAT questions. We would recommend that you review those answers and supplement as necessary.

DOD -- we have assigned a handful of questions to you on your own. There are also a large number assigned to DOS/DOD, which means that the questions concern DOD programs, but DOS will draft an answer based on material prepared for the CAT hearing. Unfortunately we have not had time to include those answers at this time, but we will be working on that in the coming weeks.

HUD and DoEd - there are a couple of reports concerning homelessness and while these questions may appear tangentially related to the Covenant we nevertheless think it wise to prepare them.

HHS - You will note several questions relating to reproductive health issues in particular. We may ultimately include more.

Timing and clearances --

There will be an opportunity for all agencies to review and clear the entire package of Q's and A's once they are completed. However, if in reviewing the document, a particular agency believes it should weigh in on a question that has been assigned to another agency, please let me know and I will put you in touch with the appropriate agency POC.

As was mentioned at last week's meeting at the NSC, the deadline for submitting answers on these Q's is Friday, June 29th.

Please be sure to send your agency's submission to schoune@state.gov, bentesjw@state.gov, amsurena@state.gov, hillsr@state.gov, and harrisrk2@state.gov.

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Once we receive the draft answers, DOS will review them and recirculate the package to you all for final review and clearance.

Thanks for your help,

Nina Schou
Attorney Adviser
U.S. Department of State
Office of the Legal Adviser
Human Rights and Refugees
202-647-4262

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